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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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12/30/2003

Steven K. Reinhardt

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Caven & Aghevli LLC

c/o CPA Global

P.O. BOX 52050

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402

EXAMINER

PARTRIDGE, WILLIAM B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2183

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/749,618	Applicant(s) REINHARDT ET AL.
	Examiner William B. Partridge	Art Unit 2183

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-13 and 15-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-13 and 15-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |
|---|--|

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 11-13 and 15-20 remain for examination.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/10/2010 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 11-13 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Rotenberg* (“AR-SMT: A Microarchitectural Approach to Fault Tolerance in Microprocessors”) herein referred to as Rotenberg.

Claim 11

Rotenberg teaches: **A method comprising: dividing a dynamic sequential program into multiple epochs comprising a first epoch instance and a second epoch**

instance (Figure 2, A-Stream and R-Stream, Section 1.2 *Note: The R-stream lags behind the A-stream and is therefore a trailing thread*), **wherein each epoch includes two or more instructions** (Section 1.2 *Note: The streams each have multiple instructions*); **in a redundant multi-threading (RMT) system having leading and trailing threads** (Figure 2, A-Stream and R-Stream, Section 1.2), **redundantly executing in parallel first epoch instance and second epoch instance for each epoch as the leading and trailing threads, respectively** (Figure 2, A-Stream and R-Stream, Section 1.2); **for the executed first epoch instance and second epoch instance, saving store results of the first epoch instance and the second epoch instance as speculative stores to memory, the speculative stores being exposed** (Figure 2, Delay Buffer, Section 1.2 Paragraph 2, “As the R-stream is fetched and executed, it’s committed results are compared to those in the Delay Buffer”); **comparing the exposed stores** (Section 1.2, Paragraph 2, *Note: The results of the A-Stream are stored in the Delay Buffer for comparison*); **and if the exposed stores match, committing a single set of the exposed stores to an architectural memory state corresponding to the dynamic sequential program** (Section 1.2, Paragraph 2 *Note: If the comparison fails then a fault is detected and the results would not be committed as the actual result of the instruction given that the result is a known fault*).

Art Unit: 2183

Claim 12

Rotenberg teaches: **The method of claim 11, wherein the speculative stores are from a re-order buffer** (Section 1.2 *Note: As the status of the results could still be a fault they are inherently speculative*).

Claim 13

Rotenberg teaches: **The method of claim 12, wherein the two or more instructions executed in response to the execution of the first and second epoch instances are buffered prior to epoch execution completion** (Figure 2, Delay Buffer).

Claim 15

Rotenberg teaches: **The method of claim 11, wherein the memory is L1 cache memory** (Figure 4).

Claim 19

Rotenberg teaches: **The method of claim 11, further comprising committing the store results of the first epoch instance or second epoch instance to a sequential architectural state of the computation in response to the first epoch instance or second epoch instance becoming an oldest epoch.**
(Section 1.2, Figure 2 *Note: The instructions are committed in order from the*

Art Unit: 2183

delay buffer, a FIFO queue, which means as the oldest will be the first in, it will also be the first out and thus the first committed).

Claims 16-18 and 20

Claims 16-18 and 20 contain the same limitations as claims 11-13, 15, and 19 and are rejected for the same reasons set forth in connection with the rejections of claims 11-13, 15, and 19.

3. Examiner believes the above rejection is sufficient for anticipating the claimed invention. However, in the event that Applicant disagrees, Examiner presents the below rejection as further evidence regarding the lack of novelty in the claims.

4. Claims 11-13 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Reinhardt et al.* ("*Transient Fault Detection via Simultaneous Multithreading*") herein referred to as Reinhardt.

Claim 11

Reinhardt teaches: **A method comprising: dividing a dynamic sequential program into multiple epochs comprising a first epoch instance and a second epoch instance** (Figure 3, Thread 0 and Thread 1, Section 3.1 *Note: The redundant thread may be time redundant and is therefore a trailing thread*), **wherein each epoch includes two or more instructions** (Section 3.1 *Note: The threads each have multiple instructions*); **in a redundant multi-threading (RMT) system**

having leading and trailing threads (Figure 3, Thread 0 and Thread 1),
redundantly executing in parallel first epoch instance and second epoch instance for each epoch as the leading and trailing threads, respectively (Figure 3, Thread 0 and Thread 1, Section 3.1); **for the executed first epoch instance and second epoch instance, saving store results of the first epoch instance and the second epoch instance as speculative stores to memory, the speculative stores being exposed** (Section 3.2, Paragraph 7, “register writeback comparison...” *Note: The results are stored in a register check buffer*); **comparing the exposed stores** (Section 3.2, Paragraph 7, “register writeback comparison...” *Note: The values are compared and if they match then the value is committed*); **and if the exposed stores match, committing a single set of the exposed stores to an architectural memory state corresponding to the dynamic sequential program** (Section 3.2, Paragraph 7, “register writeback comparison...” *Note: The values are compared and if they match then the value is committed*).

Claim 12

Reinhardt teaches: **The method of claim 11, wherein the speculative stores are from a re-order buffer** (Section 3.2, Paragraph 7, “register writeback comparison...” *Note: As the instructions have yet to be committed they are still speculative*).

Art Unit: 2183

Claim 13

Reinhardt teaches: **The method of claim 12, wherein the two or more instructions executed in response to the execution of the first and second epoch instances are buffered prior to epoch execution completion** (Section 3.2, Paragraph 7, “register writeback comparison...”).

Claim 15

Reinhardt teaches: **The method of claim 11, wherein the memory is L1 cache memory** (Figure 2).

Claim 19

Rotenberg teaches: **The method of claim 11, further comprising committing the store results of the first epoch instance or second epoch instance to a sequential architectural state of the computation in response to the first epoch instance or second epoch instance becoming an oldest epoch.** (Section 2.2, “committing results... in program order”).

Claims 16-18 and 20

Claims 16-18 and 20 contain the same limitations as claims 11-13, 15, and 19 and are rejected for the same reasons set forth in connection with the rejections of claims 11-13, 15, and 19.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 5/21/2010 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues in substance:

a. It is respectfully submitted that the cited art, alone or in combination, fails to teach (or even suggest) the claimed combination of features such as set forth in claim 11, including for example, committing a single set of the exposed stores (which are claimed to be compared) to an architectural memory state. Accordingly, claim 11 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

i. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Both Rotenberg and Reinhardt teach committing a single set of stores (Rotenberg Section 1.2; Reinhardt Section 3.2). It is noted that 'set' is not explicitly defined and thus even one store is a set (note: no stores would also be a set, a null set). Further, at no point does Applicant provide any argument, persuasive or otherwise, as to why the teachings of Rotenberg or Reinhardt do not anticipate the claim limitation; simply that the cited art does not. Thus the arguments are not persuasive.

6. Applicant's arguments fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references. Specifically Applicant merely states "It is respectfully submitted that the cited art, alone or in combination, fails to teach (or even suggest) the claimed

combination Of features such as set forth in claim 11, including for example, committing a single set of the exposed stores (which are claimed to be compared) to an architectural memory state. Accordingly, claim 11 is believed to be in condition for allowance.” No specifics as to why Applicant believes this to be the case or details are provided. Given that the amendment does not really change what was previously presented, aside from semantics to make it comply with 35 U.S.C. §112, the rejections and rational stand as previously presented.

Conclusion

7. Examiner respectfully requests, in response to this Office action, support be shown for language added to any original claims on amendment and any new claims. That is, indicate support for newly added claim language by specifically pointing to page(s) and line number(s) in the specification and/or drawing figure(s). This will assist Examiner in prosecuting the application.
8. When responding to this Office Action, Applicant is advised to clearly point out the patentable novelty which he or she thinks the claims present, in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited or the objections made. He or she must also show how the amendments avoid such references or objections. See 37 CFR 1.111(c).
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William B. Partridge whose telephone number is (571) 270-1402. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 2:00 - 6:00.

Art Unit: 2183

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie Chan can be reached on (571) 272-4162. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/William B Partridge/
Examiner, Art Unit 2183

/Eddie P Chan/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2183